GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3137
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
PROVIDING TELEPHONES IN VILLAGES
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken action against those companies which had made agreement to install telephones in villages and failed to do so;

(b) the names of the companies which have not fulfilled the conditions of this agreement;

(c) the clarification of the Government showing the action taken against such erring companies; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the companies are:

(i) M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. (now Bharti Infotel Ltd.)
(ii) M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
(iii) M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.
(iv) M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
(v) M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.
(vi) M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.

(c) & (d) The six private basic telephone service operators, who were granted licences in 1997-98, were to provide a fix number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in their respective service area. Consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence regime, the six private basic telephone service operators have migrated to Unified Access Service Licence regime in November 2003 and thereby the roll out obligations have changed to coverage of District Headquarters instead of provisioning of fixed number of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and VPTs.

The Government has recovered liquidated damages to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores from these six private basic telephone service operators for non-fulfillment of roll out obligations in terms of commencement of service as well as in provisioning of DELs and VPTs.